



NEWS

R E L E A S E

RALPH T. HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.oci.ga.gov

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Contact: Glenn Allen
404-463-0729
gallen@oci.ga.gov
Twitter: @GA_DOI

HUDGENS SEEKS TWO SUSPECTS IN INSURANCE FRAUD CASE

Atlanta -- Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that warrants have been issued for two Bibb County men on multiple counts of insurance fraud.

Patrick Renaldo Dixon, 41, and William Emerson Scruggs, 53, both of Macon, Ga., are each charged with 23 counts of insurance fraud and 23 counts of forgery, all felonies.

The investigation revealed that Dixon, a former insurance claims adjuster for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, generated phony supplemental auto repair claims against legitimate Nationwide policyholders claims, then issued checks made payable to Diamond Auto Painting located in Macon. Scruggs, who owns Diamond Auto Painting would cash the checks and divided the money with Dixon.

Commissioner Hudgens' Fraud Unit discovered that \$12,240.47 was stolen.

"My office will continue to aggressively pursue any form of insurance fraud," Hudgens said. "Besides being a crime, fraudulent insurance claims cause premiums to go up for the rest of us."

The insurance scheme was uncovered when a Nationwide Insurance policyholder contacted her agent after receiving a notice of premium increase.

Felony insurance fraud carries a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Anyone with any information about this case or any suspicious insurance scheme should call Hudgens' Consumer Services Division at 1-800-656-2298.